

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

As a preliminary matter, the Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claim 1 of the present application.

By the foregoing amendments, claims 3-5 and 10-12 have been amended and claims 6 and 7 have been canceled. Claim 2 has been previously canceled and claims 12-14 have been withdrawn. Thus, claims 1, 3-5 and 8-11 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 since this Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance for reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise any new issue regarding further search and/or consideration since the Amendment amplifies issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally-rejected claims; and (d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary because it is made in reply to arguments raised in the rejection. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed November 1, 2005, claims 3-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kashiwagi et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0098870, hereinafter "Kashiwagi") in view of Tonomura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,809,119, hereinafter "Tonomura"). It is noted that claims 3-5 and 10-12 have been amended and claims 6 and 7 have been canceled. To the extent the rejections remain

applicable to the claims currently pending, the Applicants hereby traverse the rejections, as follows.

Claims 3 and 4 Recite Patentable Subject Matter

Regarding claims 3 and 4, the Office Action takes the position that Kashiwagi discloses each and every feature of the present invention with the exception of showing each terminal “connected to and independently communicating with a high-order terminal via a network **and by providing** a channel setting table in the high-order terminal.” See Office Action, at page 2 (Emphasis added). The Office Action cites Tonomura for allegedly curing this perceived deficiency in Kashiwagi.

The Applicants respectfully submit, however, that the foregoing rejection indicates a misunderstanding of the features of the present invention as recited in amended claims 3 and 4. In fact, the phrase “by providing” follows the phrase “manag[ing] a setting status of each channel in the multi-channel input system,” as recited in amended claims 3 and 4. Thus, the recited feature is “**manag[ing] a setting status of each channel in the multi-channel input system by providing a channel setting table in the high-order terminal.**” (Emphasis added). Therefore, the reference to this feature in the Office Action as “each terminal [which is] **connected to and independently communicating . . . by providing a channel setting table** in the high-order terminal,” is incorrect.

Furthermore, the Applicants respectfully submit that nothing in the cited prior art, taken alone or in combination, discloses or suggests at least the features of the present invention of “managing a setting status of each channel in the multi-channel input system by providing a channel-setting table in the high-order terminal,” “extracting an

interference channel candidate for selecting a channel as a candidate interference channel having a possibility of the occurrence of interference at the time of updating a set channel,” and “notifying the interference channel to a terminal, when this channel other than the set channel has a data reception during a period while the set channel set at the terminal has no data reception,” as recited in amended claim 3 and the parallel language of amended claim 4.

In fact, the Applicants submit that Tonomura discloses a communication method for providing a user, by way of a network, with an information providing service that enables the user to set or alter the registered data arbitrarily, wherein the service permits the user to receive desired information at a desired time (which vary from person to person) through an intelligent network. In other words, the service user can receive the information providing service, which the user has programmed. More specifically, the communication method disclosed in Tonomura includes registering into at least one database an identification number of the user terminal, an identification number of an equipment for performing an information providing service, and a time to receive the information providing service input, by a user of the user terminal, collating a current time with the time to receive the information registered in the at least one database by a timer circuit, and automatically controlling a connection between the user terminal and the equipment for performing the service when the current time corresponds to the time to receive the service registered in the at least one database.

Thus, nothing in the cited prior art, taken alone or in combination, discloses or suggests at least the features of the present invention of “managing a setting status of each channel in the multi-channel input system by providing a channel-setting table in

the high-order terminal," "extracting an interference channel candidate for selecting a channel as a candidate interference channel having a possibility of the occurrence of interference at the time of updating a set channel," and "notifying the interference channel to a terminal, when this channel other than the set channel has a data reception during a period while the set channel set at the terminal has no data reception," as recited in amended claim 3 and the parallel language of amended claim 4.

For at least these reasons, the Applicants submit that amended claims 3 and 4 are allowable over the cited prior art.

Claims 5, 10 and 11 Recite Patentable Subject Matter

With respect to claims 5, 10 and 11, the Applicants respectfully submit that nothing in the cited prior art, taken alone or in combination, discloses or suggests at least the feature of the present invention of "a multi-channel terminal . . . comprising . . . a notification unit which notifies the candidate interference channel and a setting status of each channel of the multi-channel system to a user," as recited in amended claim 5 and the parallel language of amended claims 10 and 11.

For at least these reasons, the Applicants submit that amended claims 5, 10 and 11 are allowable over the cited prior art.

Claims 8 and 9 Recite Patentable Subject Matter

Regarding claims 8 and 9, the Applicants respectfully submit that each of these claims depends from allowable claim 5, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

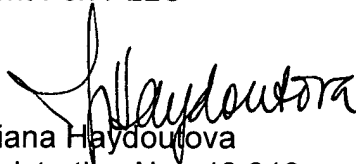
For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims recite subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited prior art, taken alone or in combination. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referring to client-matter number 108287-00005.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time (one month)